

CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
March 25, 2015 Minutes

The Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) of the City of Mesa met on March 25th, 2015,
at 6:00pm in the Lower Level, City Council Chambers, 57 E. First Street.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Denise Heap, Chair
Mark Tompert, Vice Chair
Cheryl Anderson
Tony Liuzzo
Frank Johnson
Cliff Moon
Talmage Pearce
Lu Ann Schmidt
Colleen Byron

MEMBERS ABSENT

Karen Frias-Long
Nadia Taylor

STAFF PRESENT

Andrea Alicoate
Lindsey Balinkie
Jeff Thompson
Ray Villa

GUESTS

Bev Tittle-Baker

1. Chair's Call to Order.

Ms. Heap called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

2. Items from Citizens Present.*

There were no citizens who requested to speak.

3. Approval of minutes from the February 25th, 2015 meeting.

Ms. Heap requested an amendment to item number two of the minutes in the second paragraph to include "one or more board members," rather than just "a board member." With that amendment included a motion was then made by Dr. Liuzzo to approve the February 25th, 2015 meeting minutes. Ms. Anderson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Discuss and take action on Mesa Police Department Report.

- Report on police related incidents and activities.

Commander Jeff Thompson with the Mesa Police Department provided current statistics on police activity including Biased Based Crimes. Ms. Heap requested crime statistics connected to white supremacist gangs in Mesa. Commander stated that there are 68 documented gangs in the City of Mesa. Mesa PD has a very proactive and assertive gang unit. Most gang members are Hispanic, white supremacist is not as prevalent. There were 947 gang arrests made in 2014. Half of the arrests came from the gang unit alone. YTD 2015, 119 gang arrests have been made. Eighteen arrests have been documented in a three year period, 2012-2014, that were race or religious based.

Ms. Heap and Ms. Byron requested statistics related to gangs motivated by bias. They would like the percentage of crimes related to organizations specifically related to bias. Specifically, the percentage related to total of that type of crime in the overall statistics for Mesa. Ms. Anderson requested information on how many convictions were made of the 18 bias based arrests. Dr. Liuzzo requested cross sectional data compared to similar sized cities with similar statistics. Commander Thompson will provide all of the statistics requested. Commander Thompson also invited board members to take a tour of the Family Advocacy Center.

- Provide update on scheduling of meeting between Carmen Guerrero, Napoleon Pisano, Chief Meza, Ray Villa and HRAB members.

Mr. Villa provided an update on current Mesa PD efforts including efforts to enhance community outreach with Chief Meza. They have met with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and are committed to addressing the concerns that the African American community has presented to Mesa PD. The board has scheduled a meeting with Chief Meza for April 7th. Mr. Villa stated based on a meeting with the NAACP Mesa PD is taking a much deeper look at how they track information, categories reported and how it is analyzed.

- Updates and scheduling of upcoming Police Advisory Board meetings.

Mr. Villa announced the following upcoming meeting and event dates: 4/18/15 Asian Advisory Board meeting 530 Dobson Pediatrics, 4/22/15 African American Advisory Board meeting 6pm in Central Community Room, 4/12 Pride Parade 10am in Phoenix and Community Meeting 4/1/15 regarding the active shooter incident 6pm at MCC Main Library. Ms. Heap requested Mesa PD put more information regarding the advisory boards and committees on Facebook.

5. Hear, discuss and take action on a presentation from Bev Tittle-Baker on C.A.R.E. Partnership.

Ms. Tittle-Baker presented information on the history of and current programs offered at C.A.R.E. Partnership as well as volunteer opportunities.

6. Hear, discuss, and take action on items presented by the Youth Diversity Education Team Sub-Committee.

- Provide an update on the April 9th, 2015 screening of *The Homestretch*.

Ms. Heap reviewed expected attendee numbers and promotional efforts. Dr. Liuzzo offered to donate funds for refreshments for the event. The event is sponsored by Human Rights Commission, One Community, and Phoenix Pride. Speakers will be present from St. Mary's Food Bank, Tumbleweed and One in Ten.

- Provide an update on the planning of a diversity education project (including the topic of bullying) with the Baha'i community, Anti-Defamation League, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and Gay Lesbian Education Network.

Ms. Heap reported that they would like the event to take place on National Make a Difference Day, October 24th, 2015. October is also anti-bullying month. The project will take place at C.A.R.E. Partnership. Ms. Frias-Long is taking the lead in doing additional research for this project.

- Provide an update on planning a personal finance and nutrition class for youth.

Dr. Liuzzo discussed plans for the personal finance class that will be offered to young adults at C.A.R.E. Partnership, Friday, April 24th, 2015 at 5pm. Pizza and dancing will also be offered to the youth attending. Ms. Frias-Long will plan the nutrition class for youth.

- Provide an update on Diversity education, information and building a working relationship with schools in Mesa.

Ms. Heap reported that Ms. Mangan of Dobson High School offered to connect YDET members with Skyline High School staff to extend the Cinema Series to a second school and continue discussing who will work with them regarding educational outreach programs similar to Gilbert. The Anti-Defamation League has offered to sponsor an education program if one is created.

- Provide an update on MLK Committee's Youth Leadership Development Conference.

Mr. Moon reported that he is no longer the President of the Mesa Martin Luther King (MLK), Jr. Committee. He stated the Conference for Youth may not be a focus for the new President of the MLK Committee, Angela Booker. Dr. Liuzzo made a motion to invite Ms. Booker to present to the board. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Moon will extend the invitation to Ms. Booker.

7. Hear, discuss and take action on items presented by the Disabilities Action Team Sub-Committee.

- Discuss and consider the presentation from community groups NEDCO (Neighborhood Economic Development Corporation) and R.A.I.L. (Retail, Arts, Innovation & Livability).

Ms. Anderson stated the R.A.I.L. and NEDCO representative, Mr. Crummey, and City of Mesa staff member, Mr. Newburn, presented information on the Consolidated Plan. Dr. Liuzzo made a motion to discuss the R.A.I.L. letter and recommendations related to the Consolidated Plan, Ms. Heap seconded. Ms. Heap then provided an introduction to the R.A.I.L. letter which included recommendations and information on how the Consolidated Plan CDBG funding works. Ms. Schmidt expressed concern with the recommendations related to paratransit services. Such as, existing paratransit services may be overpopulated, affecting ADA service users who may experience longer wait times and decreased accessibility. Mr. Tompert made a motion for the board to endorse R.A.I.L.'s Consolidated Plan recommendations letter and notify the City Council that the board is aware of and supports the recommendations. Ms. Heap seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

- Discuss and consider the housing guidelines in the FY 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan from the City of Mesa Housing Department.

While discussing the R.A.I.L. letter of recommendations for the Consolidated Plan, the housing guidelines and plan were discussed.

- Provide an update on the March 24th, 2015 town hall meeting to educate the community on mental health and substance abuse issues.

Ms. Anderson stated the town hall meeting went well and expressed thanks for the board's involvement. Thirty four people attended. The second event in this series will be planned by the Disabilities Action Team with a focus on the business community. Ms. Heap, Mr. Tompert, and Ms. Byron expressed their feedback on the event. Mr. Tompert expressed a desire to find better ways to get people to these types of events and recommend that Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care (MMIC) set up their own trainings in the East Valley to educate people on how to get through the system. Mr. Tompert recommended that for the next session about Business communities focus be put on their profit motives. He also recommended considering filming the next event in order to share it with additional people and communities.

- Provide an update on the feasibility of creating a Psychiatric Recovery Center in the East Valley

Ms. Anderson stated MMIC is in support of creating a recovery center. Ms. Anderson made a motion to invite East Valley Fire Fighter Charities to present at a future meeting. Ms. Heap amended the motion to include invitations to representatives from Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care, Mesa Police Department, and Mesa Fire Department to the May Diversity subcommittee meeting. Ms. Heap seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Heap will provide the names of those they would like to attend staff. Staff informed a member from East Valley Fire Fighter Charities has already been invited to the April subcommittee meeting.

- Provide an update on the ways to evaluate the adequacy of services and programs for people with disabilities and the implementation of ADA.

Ms. Anderson stated that the committee is still awaiting the City Council's response to the inclusion and diversity report.

8. Hear and discuss conferences and/or meetings.

The Phoenix Pride Parade will take place April 12th, 2015 in Phoenix. Ms. Heap recommended carpooling. Ms. Anderson offered a meeting location at 609 N 2nd Ave. Ms. Heap stated a meeting will be held March 31st, 2015 at 11:30am to further discuss the parade. Ms. Heap requested that staff facilitate carpooling. Ms. Giese will assist with affiliation.

9. Discuss and take action on scheduling of meetings, future agenda items, and general information.

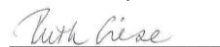
Ms. Anderson expressed concern with the Mayors press release held March 25th, 2015 regarding ending Veterans homelessness. Ms. Anderson queried as to why the HRAB board was not informed or involved given their priority on veteran issues. Dr. Liuzzo made a motion to add this issue to the next meeting's agenda in order to further discuss. Ms. Heap expressed concern that no veterans were included at the press release from the Veterans Task Force or community dialogues related to veterans or homelessness.

- The next meeting will be held on April 22nd, 2015.

10. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 7:27pm.

Submitted By:



Ruth Giese,
Diversity Program Administrator